

Application No. 10/717,098 2 of 2
Reply dated 19 April 2006
Responsive to Office Action mailed on 6 April 2006

REMARKS

Claim Rejections under 35 USC § 102

The pending claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,941,864. However, the cited Patent and the present Application have the same effective filing date, namely 17 August 1993. In fact, both derive from a common parent application filed on that date, namely Application No. 08/108,944. Specifically, the cited '864 Patent matured from Application No. 08/918,397, which was a continuation-in-part of the common parent Application. The present Application is a continuation of prior Application No. 10/120,764, now Patent No. 6,680,422, which in turn was a continuation of prior Application No. 09/437,037, now Patent No. 6,414,215, which in turn was a continuation of the common parent application.

Therefore, the cited '864 Patent does not constitute prior art with respect to the present Application. Accordingly, the allowance of the pending claims is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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